

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1190
By Winningham

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Jim Durham for his service to the good people of Macon County as a writer, editor, and publisher of the *Macon County Chronicle*.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable Tennesseans who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Jim Durham is one such noteworthy individual who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, born in Loudon County, Mr. Durham has lived a nomadic life, travelling to and living in many small towns in Kentucky and Indiana; despite his itinerant youth, he obtained the majority of his schooling in the public schools of Macon County; and

WHEREAS, early on in his life, Jimmy Durham planned to become a writer; his natural flair for words along with the inspiration of his mother, Alma Jane, and his sister, Sue, helped mold the young man into a fine journalist; and

WHEREAS, he covered football games for the *Times* during high school, while winning the County Essay Contest and graduating with top honors as the Valedictorian of his Senior Class of 1953; and

WHEREAS, after a stint in the U.S. Air Force, Mr. Durham used the GI Bill to attend Middle Tennessee University; and

WHEREAS, by 1967, he had married Mary Lou Holland, taught English at Wayne State College, and received both a Master's degree and Doctoral degree from the University of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, for a time, Mr. Durham taught high school and sold real estate, but he eventually returned to journalism and, once again, began writing for the *Times*, reuniting with his old friend and mentor Charlie Gregory; and

WHEREAS, returning to the *Times* gave Jim Durham the opportunity to learn the steps of production of a rural newspaper from all perspectives; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Mr. Durham founded the *Macon County Chronicle*, serving as owner, editor, and publisher, until July of 2001, at which time he sold half of the newspaper to Jacki and John Cook; and

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2002, Jimmy Durham announced his retirement from the responsibilities of producing the *Macon County Chronicle*; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, he has demonstrated a remarkable ability to communicate effectively with people from all walks of life, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his fellow journalists; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Durham's remarkable success as a journalist is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Jim Durham for his dedicated service to the good people of Macon County as a writer, editor, and publisher of the *Macon County Chronicle*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend to Mr. Durham our best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.